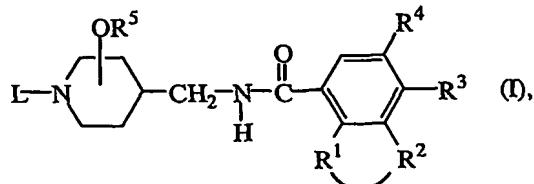


Claims

1. A compound of formula (I)



a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein -R¹-R²- is a bivalent radical of formula

- O-CH₂-O- (a-1),
- O-CH₂-CH₂- (a-2),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-O- (a-3),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- (a-4),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O- (a-5),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- (a-6),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O- (a-7),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- (a-8),

wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by C₁-6alkyl or hydroxy,

R³ is hydrogen, halo, C₁-6alkyl or C₁-6alkyloxy;

R⁴ is hydrogen, halo, C₁-6alkyl; C₁-6alkyl substituted with cyano, or C₁-6alkyloxy; C₁-6alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C₁-6alkyl)amino;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-6alkyl, and the -OR⁵ radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is a radical of formula

- Alk-R⁶ (b-1),
- Alk-X-R⁷ (b-2),
- Alk-Y-C(=O)-R⁹ (b-3),

wherein each Alk is C₁-12alkanediyl; and

R⁶ is aryl;

R⁷ is aryl;

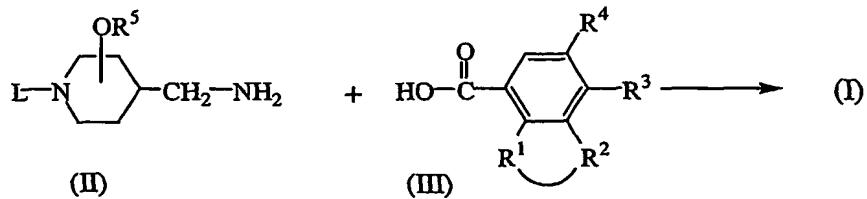
X is O, S, SO₂ or NR⁸; said R⁸ being hydrogen or C₁-6alkyl;

R⁹ is aryl;

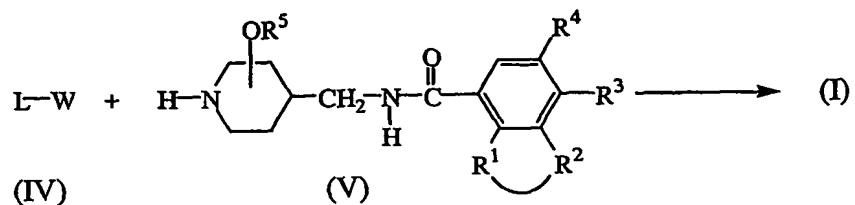
Y is a direct bond, O, S, or NR¹⁰ wherein R¹⁰ is hydrogen or C₁-6alkyl; and

aryl represents phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from hydroxycarbonyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the $-OR^5$ radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.
3. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).
4. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein L is a radical of formula (b-2) wherein Alk is C_{1-4} alkanediyl, and R^7 is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl.
5. A compound as claimed in claim 4 wherein Alk is 1,3-propanediyl or 1,4-butanediyl.
6. A compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein R^7 is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl situated at the 3- or 4-position of the phenyl moiety.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6.
8. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 is intimately mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
9. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 for use as a medicine.
10. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
 - a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



- b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (V), in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base;



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals $-R^1-R^2-$, R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

c) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.